

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      GEORGE 00337 151156Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W  
-----151213Z 046958 /23 10

R 141930Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4202  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0337

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, GY  
SUBJECT: PM'S HEALTH

REF: GEORGETOWN 0283

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH MEDIA HAS STATED THAT BURNHAM IS  
RESPONDING WELL TO PERIOD OF REST, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT  
RECOVERY HAS BEEN SLOWER THAN EXPECTED. PM REPORTEDLY  
CONTINUES TO MAKE PLANS FOR PUBLIC OUTINGS IN NEAR  
FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. PNC PARTY ORGAN NEW NATION OF FEBRUARY 13 CARRIED  
BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BURNHAM HAS RESPONDED WELL TO HIS  
PERIOD OF REST AND THAT HIS DOCTORS ARE PLEASED WITH  
IMPROVEMENTS IN HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION. THE ARTICLE  
ALLEGED THAT HIS DOCTORS ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT HE WILL  
SHORTLY BE ABLE TO RETURN TO HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES.

2. HOWEVER, BASED ON REPORTS FROM SEVERAL WELL-  
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INFORMED SOURCES, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT PM'S RECOVERY  
HAS BEEN SLOWER THAN INDICATED BY THE NEW NATION  
REPORT. HIS DOCTORS INSIST THAT HE SPEND MUCH OF  
HIS TIME IN BED AND A CABINET MINISTER WHO SAW HIM  
FEBRUARY 12 DESCRIBED HIM AS QUITE PALE, BUT IN GOOD  
SPIRITS. BURNHAM CONTINUES TO BE A DIFFICULT  
PATIENT INSISTING ON DISCUSSING GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

AGAINST THE ADVICE OF HIS PHYSICIANS. HE CONTINUES TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR A SPEECH HE IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE ON FEBRUARY 21. PLANS FOR HIS APPEARANCE AT ELABORATE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR HIM THAT WEEKEND ARE PROCEEDING. ONE OF THREE CABINET MINISTERS WHO SAW BURNHAM FEBRUARY 12 HAS TOLD US PM QUESTIONED THEM IN DETAIL ABOUT THEIR MEETINGS WITH CHARGE BLACKEN.

3. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION REMAINS CALM DESPITE PM'S PROLONGED ABSENCE FROM OFFICIAL SCENE. ACTING PRIME MINISTER REID IS PROVIDING EXTREMELY LOW KEY DIRECTION TO GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS. FONMIN WILL STILL COMPLAINS THAT DECISIONS AND DUTIES THAT SHOULD FALL TO ACTING PM ARE BEING SHOVED TO HIM. REID REMAINS HOLED UP IN HIS OFFICE TO EXTENT THAT RUMORS ARE BEGINNING TO CIRCULATE THAT HE IS TRAVELING ABROAD. BLACKEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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